

Request to lift American sanctions

177. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any request to the new Government in United States headed by Mr. George W. Bush to lift sanctions imposed against India after Pokhran-II tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) which sectors have been hit by the sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The U.S. Administration is well informed of Government's position that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and that these should be completely lifted. The U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell stated during the confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that the new Administration is engaged in reviewing the sanctions currently in place, including the remaining restrictions against India.

(c) The U.S. has lifted several restrictions imposed on India following the nuclear tests in May, 1998. Restrictions continue to be maintained on U.S. support for non-humanitarian lending by International Financial Institutions to India, certain credit and credit guarantees by U.S. Government agencies to India and on export of defence and "dual use" products and technologies. The Indian economy has shown the resilience to withstand the impact of economic restrictions imposed on India after May, 1998.

Vietnam's stand on permanent seat to India in Security Council

178. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Vietnam the question of India claim for the permanent seat in the Security Council and further democratization of the Council were discussed;